



CITY OF OREM
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

May 15, 2007

Dear Orem Residents:

On behalf of the City of Orem, I want to express my appreciation for all of your involvement in the educational and planning process surrounding the Japanese beetle crisis. The discovery of this aggressive and destructive pest is truly an emergency situation for our community, and there could not have been any progress on the issue without your neighborhood's help.

To keep the Japanese beetle from impacting other areas and potentially destroying Utah's agricultural industry, a plan for eradicating the pest has been formulated by the State of Utah Department of Agriculture and Food. The plan involves asking residents to forego the growing of fruits and vegetables and allowing spraying of all the properties in the infestation zone. Your cooperation with this plan has been wonderful—many permission slips have already been signed and returned.

Because of the severity of the situation and because time is running out to obtain all of the permission slips, Commissioner Leonard M. Blackham has declared a state of emergency regarding the Japanese beetle spraying program. This declaration calls for the mandatory spraying by the State of Utah of all property in the infestation zone.

State contractors will enter everyone's property to complete the spraying process. We urge you to follow the instructions that will be provided prior to spraying and ask that you please cooperate with the contractors as they go about their work.

The State Department of Agriculture anticipates if they are able to successfully complete the spraying program throughout the next three years, the outlook for eradicating the Japanese beetle is very good. We understand that this process will require sacrifices by your neighborhood, and we are grateful to those who are sacrificing for the greater good. To receive some of the food items that you might not be able to grow due to the restrictions, please contact your Neighborhood Chairperson about the Share the Harvest or Food for Flowers programs.

If you have questions about the spray or spraying process, please call the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food at (801) 538-4912. Again, thank you for your help and cooperation in eradicating the Japanese beetle.

Sincerely,

Jerry C. Washburn
Mayor